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# Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NEA-02 /005 R

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---------- 064243
R 261649Z JUL 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 146933

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ANKARA ISLAMABAD LONDON
MOSCOW NEW DELHI TEHRAN CINCPAC FOR POLAD KATHMANDU
ROME, JUL 25, FROM KABUL RPTD TO YOU:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 5492

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, AF
SUBJ: AFGHAN COUP - CURRENT SITUATION

REF: A) KABUL 5478 (NOTAL) B) KABUL 5397

1. FOURTEEN MEMBERS FORMER ROYAL FAMILY DEPARTED KABUL
MORNING JULY 25 FOR ITALY AND PROBABLE PERMANENT EXILE (REFTEL A).
ABDUL WALI AND HIS FATHER MARSHAL SHAH WALI KHAN REMAIN IN
KABUL UNDER DETENTION.

2. PRESIDENT DAUD HELP PRESS BRIEFING EVENING JULY 24 FOR
ABOUT 20 FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC CORRESPONDENTS, INCLUDING
FRENCH AND ITALIAN RADIO-TV, AP, UPI, WASHINGTON POST AND
TIME REPRESENTATIVES. DAUD TOLD JOURNALISTS LITTLE THAT
WE HAD NOT HEARD BEFORE. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS HE SAID:
1) OLD CONSTITUTION NO LONGER VALID AND PARLIAMENT CEASES
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TO EXIST; 2) NO FUTURE POLITICAL ROLE WILL BE PERMITTED

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DEPOSED KING AND HIS FAMILY, ALTHOUGH THEY WILL BE CONSIDERED AFGHAN CITIZENS; 3) NEW POLITICAL SYSTEM MAY REQUIRE SUSPENSION SOME BASIC FREEDOMS; 4) THERE WOULD BE NEW CONST-ITUTION AND IT WOULD BE DEMOCRATIC; 5) SOME MEMBERS OF PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE TO FACE TRIAL; AND 6) HE WAS NOT YER PREPARED TO PASS JUDGMENT ON HELMAND WATERS TREATY WITH IRAN, SINCE HE WAS NOT PRIME MINISTER AT TIME IT NEGOTIATED AND HAD NOT YET STUDIED IT. (BRITISH AMBASSADOR DRINKALL TOLD AMBASSADOR NEUMANN DAUD GAVE HIM SIMILAR RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON TREATY.) HE ALSO VIGOROUSLY DENIED THAT COUP WAS DIPLOMATIC SUCCESS FOR USSR. HE SAID THERE WAS NO RPT NO HELP FROM OUTSIDE AND THAT COUP MAKERS WOULD DETERMINE FUTURE OF COUNTRY, NOT FOREIGNERS. HE WAS VAGUE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT PUSHTUNISTAN, SAYING BOTH SIDES MUST DEAL WITH REALITY AND SEEK AMICABLE SOLUTION.

3. LARGE PRO-GOVERNMENT DEMONSTRATIONS HELD JULY 21, 22 AND 23 AT PASHTUNISTAN SQUARE. SEVERAL YOUNG MILITARY OFFICERS, LED BY CAPT. ZAHIR TORKMANI, WERE PRINCIPAL SPEAKERS. THEY CASTIGATED FORMER KING ZAHIR AND HIS ASSOCIATES FOR EVILS THEY HAD PERPETRATED; ASSERTED THAT ALL MINORITIES (TAJIKS, HAZARAS, TORKOMANS AND SHI'ITES) WOULD BE EQUAL UNDER NEW REGIME AND THEY GAVE BOASTFUL ACCOUNTS OF THEIR ROLE IN EVENTS JULY 17. SIMILAR DEMONSTRATION EVENING JULY 24 WAS BROKEN UP AND CROWD DISPERSED BY MILITARY TROOPS.

4. KABUL OUTWARDLY HAS RETURNED TO NORMAL. TRAFFIC FLOWING WELL EXCEPT IN FEW AREAS STILL BLOCKED OFF BY TROOPS. BAZAAR ECONOMY FUNCTIONING IN NORMAL FASHION. BUSINESSMEN REPORT NO HIND-RANCE OF THEIR OPERATIONS (EXCEPT SOME FOOD DEALERS BEING FORCED TO SELL MEAT AND OTHER CONSUMABLES AT LOWER PRICES). MONEY EXCHANGES ARE OPEN ALTHOUGH NOT ACCEPTING CHEDKS AND FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS ARE EFFECTIVELY CONTROLLED THROUGH CENSORSHIP OF ALL OUTGOING CABLES AND MAIL. TELEPHONE SERVICE RESTORED IN KABUL AFTERNOON OF JULY 23 AND NORMAL AIRLINE LINKS ARE NOW OPEN BUT WITH DEPARTURE DELAYS REGULAR OCCURRENCE DUE TO AIRPORT SECURITY RESTRICTIONS. EXCHANGE RATE FOR DOLLAR CLIMBED BRIEFLY FROM PRE-COUP LEVEL OF 54-55 AFS TO ONE DOLLAR TO 63 ON JULY 21, SINCE THEN HAS DROPPED BACK TO 58.
PRIVATE TRADERS PLACING NORMAL ORDERS FOR NEW MERCHANDISE AND
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NO EVIDENCE THAT THEY HAVD QUALMS ABOUT THEIR FUTURE STABILITY.

5. USAID CONTRACT EMPLOYEES AT VARIOUS MINISTRIES REPORT DAY TO DAY ONGOING INTERNAL WORK OF THEIR MINISTRIES (SPECIFICALLY FINANCE AND MINES AND INDUSTRIES) CONTINUES TO FUNCTION NORMALLY BUT WE UNDERSTAND THAT PROGRAMS REQUIRING FIELD TRIPS OR INTER-MINISTERIAL CO-OPERATION ARE LAGGING AS AS INDIVIDUALS PROBABLY AFRAID OF GETTING TOO FAR OUT IN

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FRONT. AS NEW GOVERNMENT CONCENTRATING ALL ITS ENERGIES ON
CONSOLIDATING ITS POSITION HIGHLY LIKELY THAT ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS AND PROGRAMS WILL BE ALLOWED TO DRIFT
FOR NEAR FUTURE. DAY-TO-DAY WORK WILL GO ON BUT MAJOR DECISIONS
WILL HAVE TO AWAIT APPOINTMENT OF NEW MINISTERS. (THERE ARE
RUMORS THAT CIVILIAN CABINET WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN NEAR FUTURE).

6. SUBSEQUENT TO AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON PRESIDENT-PRIME
MINISTER DAUD (REFTEL B), BOTH OFFICIAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE
AFGHAN PRESS (KABUL TIMES) AND RADIO AFGHANISTAN ANNOUNCED
JULY 23 THAT UNITED STATES HAS EXTENDED "OFFICIAL RECOGNITION
TO REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN".

7. SIDELIGHTS: ALL ARRIVALS AT AIRPORTS BEING SEARCHED BY
MACHINE-GUN CARRYING MILITARY. PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR ISPAHANI
TRAVELLING BACK TO KABUL ON JULY 23 ON IRAN AIR FROM TEHRAN
WAS SUBJECTED TO THOROUGH BODY SEARCH AT KANDAHAR STOPOVER.
(PLANE ORDERED TO MAKE NON-SCHEDULED STOP THERE BY AFGHAN
AUTHORITIES) IRAN AIR PILOT SAID HE WAS TOLD "MILITARY
PLANES WERE ON RUNWAY IN KABUL"THEREFORE WAS ORDERED TO KANDAHAR
TO WAIT. CAPTAIN REFUSED TO ALLOW ARMED SOLDIERS TO BOARD PLANE
AND AFGHANS APPEAR TO HAVE RETALIATED BY MAKING ALL PASSENGERS
AND CREW LINE UP OUTSIDE FOR BODY SEARCH AND THEN STAND OUT IN
THE SUN FOR HOUR AND A HALF WAITING. ISPAHANI TOLD EMBOFF
(WHO WAS ON PLANE) THAT HE HAD NEVER BEEN TREATED SO BADLY
IN ALL HIS LONG CAREER AND FELT LIKE TAKING THE FIRST PLANE
OUT OF AFGHANISTAN IN RETALIATION.
NEUMANN

UNQUOTE. ROGERS

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